



REQUEST FOR RESULTS

2004

Vision

The Placer County Children and Families Commission believes *all children are our children*, therefore we shall create an environment that supports our children and their families in reaching their full potential.

General Information

This is the third release of the Commission's Request for Results application. The first two releases resulted in the development of the First 5 Partner Network continuing to achieve a variety of outcomes. Through this process, First 5 Placer has already invested \$8.9 million within our Community. Also, through the recent revision of the First 5 Placer Strategic Plan, another \$5 million has been invested in a variety of Partners through 2007. A summary of all the currently funded Partners can be found on our web site, at www.placer.ca.gov/cfc. We would like to build on this base so please review the organizations that the Commission currently invests in to see where your proposed outcomes may fall and how your strategies may interconnect with others. Also, please take time to read the Commission's Strategic Plan as this funding initiative is intended to further the strategic results area goals reflected in the plan.

In order for First 5 Placer to positively impact children prenatal through 5 and their families, business as usual cannot just continue. Also, to keep First 5 funding from becoming a "prenatal through 5 silo" or categorical program, we must focus on results. By definition, no one agency can achieve comprehensive results for children and families on their own, as it requires communication, coordination, collaboration and possibly integration with other partners in an adaptive networked model. Another premise is that no child should go without care and/or enrichment just so one agency can receive First 5 money while another does not. Consequently, we have set aside the competitive grant writing process that pits one vulnerable population against another. **What we desire are partnerships to achieve measurable sustainable results that improve the lives of our children and families.**

We ask our proposing partners to think through the important results that can be achieved with First 5 funding, and work with us to measure the achievement of those results. Also, we believe that those who are delivering and receiving services most effectively measure the anticipated results. So as you think of the results you would like to achieve, also think about how you will measure those results as well as the processes you will employ to learn from your data. This application process should be viewed as an opportunity to achieve the sustainable results that matter for our children and families, not just another proposal process to fund your annual budget. First 5 staff is available to provide technical assistance to you in developing your results (i.e., outcomes) and to help with your evaluation design.

Funding Levels and Applicant Workshops

We anticipate that the Commission will make available approximately \$1,200,000 under this Request for Results. **Applications must be received (not postmarked) by 5:00 p.m. June 15, 2004 at 11730 Enterprise Drive, Auburn, CA 95603.** Applications received after this date will not be reviewed by the Commission.

An Applicant Workshop will be held on May 19, 2004 at the Rocklin Sunset Center located at 2650 Sunset Blvd., Rocklin, CA. from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Participation in the Applicant Workshop is required in order to partner with First 5 and receive funding. The Commission will not review applications submitted without agency participation in the workshop. The workshops will provide an opportunity for you to:

- Ask questions, in order to get a complete understanding of the Request for Results process and application forms.
- Receive a brief overview on outcomes, and performance measures.
- Declare the intended results of your application and identify potential partners and linkages to other agencies involved in related services.
- Have access to computers and technical assistance in developing outcomes and measures for your ideas.

After the applications are received, an Application Review Committee will review them. The committee will discuss all applications with applicants in open meetings and make recommendations to the Commission.

General Background About Proposition 10

The California Children and Families Act (Proposition 10) is the source of funding for this Request for Results initiative to invest in, promote, support, and improve the early development of children from the prenatal stages to five years of age. In Placer County, the First 5 Placer County Children and Families Commission (CFC) administer Proposition 10 funds. Staff support for the CFC is provided through a contract with the Placer County Department of Health and Human Services. Prop. 10 provides a historic opportunity to invest in the well-being of children and families in ways that will benefit all of us for decades to come. The overall intent of the California Children and Families Act is that local Commissions will engage service providers and consumers in an integrated partnership approach to achieve strategic results in five areas outlined in the Commission's plan:

- Improved Family Functioning
- Improved Child Development
- All Children Are Healthy
- Community Partnerships
- Supportive Environments

The primary focus of this investment initiative is on early childhood development. Scientific research, and practical experience has established that the emotional, physical and intellectual environment that a child is exposed to in the first years of life has a lasting impact on how the child's brain, body, and behavior develop. The experiences that infants and toddlers have with respect to parents and caregivers will influence how that child functions when he or she reaches school and later in life. Prior to Proposition 10, most money spent on children's programs was directed at children older than five years of age. The First 5 Placer Request for Results process is a significant step in the direction of focusing on the critical prenatal period and the first five years in a child's development. Also, through this process we intend to focus on results for all children, not just children who are "at risk." Therefore, enrichment, and strength-based results will have equal importance to the traditional deficit model strategies.

The Commission's Strategic Plan describes several high impact or high leverage strategies for each of the strategic result areas. These strategies summarize best practices and are supported by the community voice. The strategies are offered as guidelines. They are not meant to preclude additional innovative and creative strategies offered by community partners or strategies that may emerge during the Request for Results application process and full implementation of the First 5 Placer Strategic Plan. The terms used in the plan and in this Request for Results are defined as follows:

Strategic Result – A broad goal to be achieved throughout the County.

Outcome – A condition and/or behavior that will exist or, be enhanced as a result of activities or services funded or initiated through First 5.

Potential Strategies – Broad activities to achieve the goals and outcomes.

The First 5 Placer Strategic Plan is an integral part of this Request for Results application process. The plan may be viewed on our web site at, www.placer.ca.gov/cfc. All potential partners should review the plan to understand the goals, investment strategies and sustainability envisioned for First 5 in Placer County.

Qualities of a Good Application

The First 5 Placer Children and Families Commission is seeking results for children and families through applications that have the following qualities:

- Address the Strategic Results in the Commissions Strategic Plan (adopted on March 18, 2004).
- Promote sustainable, integrated, coordinated, accessible, and consumer friendly services (both formal and informal) serving children prenatal through 5 and their families.
- Provide cultural and language appropriate family centered services using a family team (Wrap-Around) approach. Reflects the cultural and linguistic diversity of the community addressed.

- Results-based to achieve genuine relevant outcomes and use meaningful performance measures.
- Inter-generational (where possible) to draw on and promote the strengths of families.
- Establish and/or expand linkages with traditional and non-traditional partners.
- Remove barriers and increase childcare, enrichment, health and family support services for all children prenatal through 5 and their families within Placer County.
- Build on other local First 5 Placer funded services, and/or those of a County contiguous to Placer County that shows specific benefits to Placer County residents.
- Utilize existing networks, collaboratives, and partnerships to leverage financial and social capital to foster sustainable results using inclusive, and integrated system-wide approaches.
- Build on current assets and strengths of the communities served.
- Demonstrate capacity to collect and measure proposed outcome data and ability to present data in a fashion that is understandable so that data can be used for programmatic, policy and funding decisions. It is recommended that applicants fully research the policy and fiscal impact of collecting and analyzing outcome data and plan accordingly.

Qualities of Eligible Organizations

- Applicants may be a non-profit community-based organization, association or group (including a joint venture with a fiscal sponsor), corporation, school, municipality or unit of local government located in Placer County.
- Private businesses may apply with a current business license and compliance with all local, State and Federal requirements that may apply.
- First 5 funds are subject to stringent auditing standards. Therefore, entities that receive these funds must use sound fiscal practices. Annual independent auditing will be required. It is recommended that applicants fully research the fiscal impact of having their First 5 funds independently audited and plan accordingly.
- It is preferred that potential partners have experience in planning and delivering health, childcare, educational, enrichment and/or social services that promote, support and improve the early development of children from the prenatal stage to five years of age, and their families.

- By law, all First 5 investments must be results focused. Embedded in this concept is the need for a sustained organizational capacity to collect relevant outcome data. Organize it in such a way that it can be reviewed in light of the anticipated results to learn if they are being met; in the process of being met; or not being met. Therefore potential partners should seriously consider the organizational impact of being results-oriented in the First 5 context. Also, there will be an expectation that all partners will have the organizational capacity to participate in First 5 sponsored learning conversations to learn from their outcome data and use their First 5 funds in sustainable ways to support results.

Types of Investments

Although there are no guarantees as to how long Proposition 10 funds will be available to Placer County, the Commission envisions investing these resources in at least three ways:

- One-time Projects or Acquisitions
- One-year Programs or Services to Achieve Results
- Multi-year Programs or Services (Up to 3 years – renewed annually ending on June 30, 2007)

Application Evaluation and Award Criteria

The Commission will evaluate each application to determine its responsiveness to the Commission's Strategic Plan. The specific evaluation criteria is listed below.

Criteria

- Provides services, supports and/or programs for the prenatal through 5 population and their families.
- Addresses one or more of the Strategic Result Areas in the Strategic Plan.
- Adheres to the application and organization qualities listed above.
- Contains clear outcomes that describe conditions and/or behavior that will exist or be enhanced as a result of activities or services funded or initiated through First 5.
- Contains clear activities and/or services (processes) that will achieve the outcomes.
- Collects meaningful data and includes a reasonable, sustainable evaluation plan to measure achievement of the outcomes.
- A reasonable budget that leverages and/or maximizes other funds and directly supports the achievement of the outcomes.

- Demonstrates past or current results.
- Shows actual, as opposed to proposed networking and collaboration with other organizations (people) providing services to the population targeted in the application.
- Where appropriate, links with currently funded partners.
- Meaningfully addresses one or more of the sustainability approaches described in the First 5 Placer Strategic Plan.

Restrictions and Eligible Beneficiaries

- Consistent with the intent of the California Children and Families Act, no money from this application process may be used to supplant Federal, State, County or other money available to the applicant. In other words, activities funded under this process must be new or enhancements to existing activities. You may not withdraw funds currently supporting an activity and replace or supplant those funds with Proposition 10 funds.
- All applications for capital improvements exceeding \$50,000 or fixed assets totaling in excess of \$10,000 will be considered for collateralized loans instead of grants (or a combination thereof). Also, all applications that request fixed assets and/or capital improvements will be considered on a “case-by-case” basis. A special ad hoc review committee may be formed by the Commission to make recommendations on case-by- case proposals to ensure expertise relevant to the particular application.
- An exciting aspect of Proposition 10 funding is that all prenatal through 5 children and their families are eligible to receive the benefits of Proposition 10 funds. There is no means test or income level that must be met to receive services. Also, this funding is not necessarily geared toward “at-risk” populations. Nor are there any restrictions due to race, color or creed. Therefore, an organization receiving these funds must not discriminate in any way and must comply with all equal opportunity laws in the planning and delivery of services.

Required Documents

We have tried to make this application process user friendly but there are certain business practices that we must embrace in order to meet our obligations to the State Children and Families Commission and our Community. Although we have kept the required documents to a minimum we realize that our minimum standards may pose problems for small or non-traditional organizations or informal parent groups. If you have an outcome you would like to achieve but you are not able to provide the required documents or partner with an organization that does, please talk to us about what you would like to see happen for children and families. Maybe we can find some alternatives. For the most part, however, to be considered for funding, applicants should provide the following documents that fit your organization or affiliation:

- If applicable, a current list of your Board of Directors with their affiliations.
- For collaborative approaches, letters of commitment or Memorandums of Understanding from key agencies or other partners outlining specific types and levels of commitment to your proposed activities and anticipated results.
- Proof of non-profit status, appropriate business license, and/or fiscal sponsor.
- Copy of your most recent independent CPA audit or audited year-end financial statement.
- Proof of appropriate insurance indemnifying the First 5 Placer County Children and Families Commission will be required at the execution of a contract.

Appeals

After the Commission has made its funding decisions any applicant may appeal a decision by filing in writing the reason for the appeal. The Commission will review all appeals and try to resolve them in a timely fashion. The Commission's decision on each appeal will be final and not appeal able. The Commission will give written notice setting forth the final outcome of the appeal.

Required Reports and Learning Symposiums

In order to track progress and share the learning from the field, all funded partners will be required to prepare their outcome data for review and participate in learning conversations to share outcome data with the Commission, other partners, and the Community. If technical assistance is needed to meet this requirement First 5 Placer will provide it.

Also, the State Children and Families Commission requires an annual report from First 5 Placer. The report is an overview of the work performed through our Partner Network. Therefore, all funded partners will be required to provide the information needed to comply with the State reporting requirements.

Also, "Outcome Faires" have been used every year since the implementation of First 5 in Placer County as an opportunity:

- For the Community to see first hand, and understand what is going on with First 5 Prop. 10 money in Placer County.
- To provide an opportunity for the First 5 Partner Network to make new connections and/or recharge existing ones.
- To provide a safe, fun environment for families of children prenatal to 5 years of age to interact with each other and learn about the resources available to them through the partnership supported by the First 5 Placer Commission.

All funded partners will be required to participate in the annual Outcome Faires.

Clarifications and Timeline

The First 5 Placer County Children and Families Commission provides the following clarifications to its Request for Results.

1. What will happen at the “applicant workshop?”

Participation in the workshop is required for those who are interested in becoming partners with the Commission in implementing the Commission’s Strategic Plan. We would like to create an environment for creativity, innovation, and a voice from non-agency perspectives. The invitation to the workshop is extended to include applicant stakeholders (including clients/consumers) so that they can become part of the application development process. The workshop agenda is:

- Q&A to clarify any part of the Request for Results.
- Brief overview on outcomes and performance measures.
- An “Open Space” for all application ideas to be discussed and an opportunity for applicants to work together (collaborate, network) on behalf of all children prenatal through 5 and their families.

We would like to get as much of the whole system as possible in the room at the same time so that collaboration, networking, and lines of communication can be opened. Applicants will have an opportunity to convene a session around their application idea or passion (i.e. something they feel strongly about, and will take responsibility to make sure something gets done). Others who have similar interests and/or connecting interests can join in the conversation and planning. We will have computers available with templates of the attached application so people can, if they wish, begin developing their applications. Consultation will be available to provide technical assistance in developing outcomes and performance measures.

We are attempting to create a process that blends the best of collaboration and competition with the ultimate “winners” being all children prenatal through 5 and their families. Ideally, the applications received by the Commission as a result of this open and inclusive process will be products of networking and collaboration and have the full support of the community.

2. Are we going to prioritize areas we will fund?

We could prioritize in advance but the applications we receive will essentially prioritize for us. Also, we do not want to limit ideas for applications. All applications must serve prenatal through 5 children and address our strategic plan. If there are gaps or overlaps, the Commission will prioritize and target another funding process or, initiate an alternative action.

3. What is the time line?

April 2004	Release the Request for Results and advertise it widely.
May 2004	Hold one Applicant Workshop in South Placer County.
June 2004	Applications due by mid June.
June/July 2004	Application review Committee reviews applications and develops investment recommendations.
July 2004	Investment recommendations made to the First 5 Commission.
July/August 2004	Partner contracts developed.
October 2004	First 5 Placer County Children and Families Commission Outcome Faire to celebrate accomplishment and introduce the First 5 Partner Network to the Community.

4. How much money will be available?

There will be a total \$1,200,000 available over the three-year period of 2004- 2007.

5. How will funding decisions be made? Will we use weighted criteria?

The Commission appointed an Application Review Committee to review applications, contact applicants, schedule interviews, and make recommendations to the full Commission.

The Commission will use the criteria listed in the Request for Results application packet. Also, applications will be reviewed in open public meetings in light of the Commission's Strategic Plan, but we will not weight the criteria.

6. Is there a maximum/minimum that can be applied for?

No, but there is only \$1,200,000 available. In terms of the appropriateness of the amount of funding requested, the general guideline will be: Is this a reasonable amount of money to achieve the anticipated sustainable results?

7. Will we require a sustainability plan in the applications?

Sustainability of an on-going program or service beyond the availability of First 5 funding is very important. We encourage all potential partners to read the Commissions statement on sustainability, which is included in the Commission's Strategic Plan, and build in results and strategies that will address one or more of the sustainability pathways offered in the plan.

8. How do I obtain an application?

Several ways are available to receive an application:

- ✓ Copies are available at our office for pickup between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, located at HHS Admin/CFC, 11730 Enterprise Dr., Auburn, CA.
- ✓ U.S. Mail
- ✓ Faxing
- ✓ Emailing
- ✓ On-Line application available on our web site at www.placer.ca.gov/cfc - click open Request for Results 2004 Application. Complete the form, print a copy for yourself, and click send.

Above requests for mailing, faxing, emailing, and questions about the on-line application can be made by contacting Bobbie Reagan at our office, 530.889.6788 or emailing her at bregan@placer.ca.gov.

9. How many copies of my application should be submitted?

Just one and make a copy for your records.



First 5 Placer County Children and Families Commission
11730 Enterprise Drive, Auburn, CA 95603

www.placer.ca.gov/cfc
www.networkofcare.org

Phone: 530.889.6772 or 889.6751
(Fax): 530.889.6763